

the chronicle

IT'S THE DICKENS OF A JOB WITH THESE MERRY WIVES

— see page 2



DON'T MESS WITH ALEXANDRA'S NEW BEST PAL

— see page 5



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Stourport cap for hero of The Ashes



England cricket star Jonathan Trott looks the part in his new Stourport CC cap. Sadly the Ashes hero has not been enrolled to spearhead the newly promoted first team's challenge next year — he was handing over awards at presentation night. For the full story and more pictures, see Page 12

'Attack' was just for film

POLICE rushed to Habberley Valley after two men were spotted attacking another man on the ground. But their quick response was unnecessary — the "assault" was staged by students filming a drama project.

Officers had received a report about the attack, taking near a three-door Volkswagen hatchback on a car park.

There was no sign of anyone or any vehicle when police arrived. The car park was cordoned off while officers investigated.

Following an appeal for information, a student contacted officers to explain. Officers said they should have been notified.

Traders set to emerge back into bright lights

A TRADER left in the dark after Kidderminster's Christmas lights failed in parts of the town has been assured the decorations will be re-installed imminently.

Russ Kelsall, owner of Cartridge World on Worcester Street, felt "excluded" after the switch-on, on November 19, saw Worcester Street and High Street without any lights. "It really made us feel that we weren't part of the town and that the council just didn't care," he said.

But district council leader Councillor John Campion said despite faults with the original set, new lights will be fitted as soon as possible. "When our contractors were installing the fittings there were some failures which affected the usual coverage. More will be installed shortly," he said.

Cash joy for community group

MEMBERS of a community group are celebrating, after being awarded a grant of more than £20,000 towards a major refurbishment project.

The Wribbenhall Parish Rooms committee plans to redevelop the Kidderminster Road venue, which is used by a number of groups and organisations.

A donation of £22,500 from EU development fund Leader has got the ball rolling towards its eventual

£250,000 target. The Leader money will be put towards building a new toilet block, which will have outside access so people from the church can use the facilities without disturbing any groups using the parish rooms.

Anne Mace, press officer for Wribbenhall Parish Rooms which is a registered charity, said she hoped the group's first major funding would have a snowball effect.

"We're thrilled to bits with the news," she said. "The existing toilets are a bit of a

disgrace but the new ones will be up-to-date and will also provide facilities for the church.

"It's a long-term project and now we've got one lot of funding that is really helpful on applying for more," she added.

Other donations, to go alongside money raised by the committee, have included £1,000 from Councillor Gordon Yarranton, of Worcestershire County Council.

Another £1,000 has come from the Civic Society while group chairman

Councillor Liz Davies — former mayor of Bewdley Town Council — donated £1,700 from her mayor's charity fund.

Miss Mace added: "It is wonderful to have so much local support as we move forward with this much needed project."

The group will next apply for funding from the Lottery's Award for All programme.

To get in touch with Wribbenhall Parish Rooms contact Councillor Davies on 01299 403053.

Incinerator is suitable size, says council planner
EXPERTS CLASH AT BIG INQUIRY

A PLANNING expert came under fire from objectors during a public inquiry over a proposed £120million incinerator in Hartlebury.

Kirsten Berry from Worcestershire County Council was in the hot seat on Tuesday when she was questioned by Wail (Worcestershire residents Against Incineration and Landfill).

During day five of the eight-day inquiry at Worcester County Hall, Wail representative Peter Taylor grilled Miss Berry after she declared there was "no other alternative" to the energy from waste facility known as EnviRecover.

Mr Taylor said the development, featuring a 75-metre high chimney, would "sprawl" the open area and harm greenbelt land.

"The impact is five times more than that of any other building on the site. This is not something that is going to integrate into the Hartlebury Trading Estate," he added.

But Miss Berry said: "I am content the facility, which meets the aims of Worcestershire's climate change strategy, is suitably sized and would be entirely located within the boundaries of the estate."

"The applicant has done all they can to reduce the size and visual impact of the building. I conclude these impacts are not so significant to justify the refusal of the application."

She said the design had been "well developed" and offering the "best option" of areas considered, including the Ravens Bank site.

Mr Taylor also claimed the authority was biased in

By Sarah Hazelwood at County Hall

s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk

favour of applicants Mercia Waste Management as the firm already operates a private finance initiative contract with Worcestershire and Herefordshire County Councils.

He said this residents with "little financial support" were unable to address their arguments effectively.

Miss Berry replied: "I strongly refute this allegation of bias as each area operates separately, addressing matters directly, with Chinese walls set up for it to function impartially."

"There is a significant need for this facility and there are no other alternative sustainable sites."

Miss Berry said the development would save on costs without an adverse environmental impact.

On Tuesday Planning Inspector Terrance

Kemmenn-Lane also heard evidence in chief from Wail's planning expert Louise Brooke Smith.

She said: "I believe the plan will be of detriment to the area and provides no flexibility to deal with changes in the future, jeopardising other proposals."

"The structure is disproportionate, causing a magnitude of effects on the wider area."

She also claimed other sites "weren't fully addressed" and Hartlebury should have been excluded as an option.

"There is a great deal of public anxiety over the plans and the applicants have failed to reflect or respond to their concerns that were raised."

Closing submissions are being made tomorrow, with a decision expected in February.

Paws for thought to help charity



Margaret Szawejko with Alfie, Forest Dog Rescue's star fundraiser

A THERAPIST is hoping to soothe a dog charity. Animal lover Margaret Szawejko, from Stourport, is offering people discounted relaxation treatments on Wednesday afternoons until the end of January to raise funds for Forest Dog Rescue.

Margaret, who has more than 40 years' experience, is offering a choice of reflexology or yoga therapy. FDR fundraising manager Maureen Shaffery said: "We are always so overwhelmed by people's generosity and the unique ways in which our supporters help us raise funds."

A single session costs £20 (normally £25) and all proceeds go to Forest Dog Rescue. Call 01299 824911 to book.

Setback in bid to buy castle

CAMPAIGNERS battling to buy historic Hartlebury Castle to ensure it remains open to the public have had a bid for cash rejected by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust had hoped to secure £478,000 in development funding as well as the chance to make a full application for £4.2million later on.

But Lottery bosses said that while they recognised the importance of the building near Kidderminster they were unable to support the bid.

The castle, formerly the home of the Bishop of Worcester, was deemed surplus to requirements by the Church of England and will be put on the market for £2.2m next year.

Trust chairman Alison Brimelow said: "Clearly we are very disappointed with the outcome and it has been a setback."

"The decision not to award us the grant was due to the high level of competition for the limited funds available and a concern about the asking price."

"The Trust will now enter further negotiations with the Church Commissioners."

"Once agreed, the Heritage Lottery Fund has indicated that they would reconsider the application."

Replies on gipsy plans top 2,000

MORE THAN 2,000 responses were sent to Wyre Forest District Council as part of a consultation, now concluded, into proposals for new gipsy and traveller sites in Wyre Forest.

The district council says it needs to identify 43 more pitches by 2022. Officials will sift responses and decide in the new year.



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Council may help you out with the mortgage

Every member who took part over the seven hours of action received a medal from the event on Sunday, November 27 at King Charles School, Kidderminster. Sponsorship cash is being gathered in before a final figure is released.

Between 1972 and 1977 Clifford released seven solo albums and reached number eight in the singles chart in July 1973 with Gaye. The singer died in December 2001 after battling with Multiple Sclerosis for nearly two decades.

Council leader councillor John Campion said: "At the moment this is something the council is looking at with an open mind."

For tickets ring The Box Office at
The Rose Theatre on 01562 743745 or
visit www.rosetheatre.co.uk

The appointment follows the emergence of plans to reinvigorate Worcester Street in Kidderminster through the development of a major new retail store in the Bromsgrove Street area of the town.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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Sugar site scheme could bring 400 jobs

AT LEAST 400 jobs are expected to be created under plans to revamp a former sugar factory in Kidderminster, building more than 300 homes and a business park.

The development, where the old British Sugar factory stood in Stourport Road, will form part of the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park, which won Government support last month.

Wyre Forest District Council officer Daniel Boden revealed the figures following a consultation event by developers St Francis Group.

"This is still in early stages of masterplan development - but we believe that when fully developed, phase one of the site has the potential to provide in the region of 400 jobs," he said.

Range

"This is not including any additional jobs associated with the construction process."

Council leader John Campion labelled the proposals as "very exciting" for the town.

If the proposals go ahead as planned, the 74-acre plot - the largest brownfield site in Wyre Forest - will host around 320 new homes and a range of commercial and industrial businesses as well.

St Francis Group spokesman Andy Plant said he hoped the development would help open up access for businesses to come to the area.

"The problem for this area when trying to attract business and investment is that it is not very well connected to other regions and, in particular, is some distance from motorways," he said.

Good sports set for Christmas



All set to collect gifts are, from left, Pauline Morris, Serina Morgan and Rosie Taylor, Antony Richards and Rebecca Evans

SPORTS centres in Wyre Forest are linking up with Oxfam to boost the Christmas spirit.

Both Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Centre will receive gifts from members of the public for children who otherwise might get nothing.

The scheme is being run with Oxfam Kidderminster, whose store manager Antony Richards said: "I think it's great that both Glades Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Centre are supporting our charity. This is a brilliant way to bring the community together and improve a child's Christmas."

Prince and panto for visit to theatre

A ROYAL visitor was being treated to panto excerpts in Worcestershire today (December 1).

The Earl of Wessex was at The Swan theatre in Worcester to mark its recent refurbishment.

Prince Edward was being entertained with segments from this year's professional panto at the Swan, Jack and The Beanstalk.

He was also enjoying performances by the youngsters of Academy Dance and meeting representatives from the Swan Youth Theatre, Friends of the Swan, Worcester Society of Artists and Worcester Camera Club.

Prince Edward is thought to be the first royal visitor to the theatre since it opened in 1964.

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Saturday 17th	ALEX ROUND
Sunday 18th	C - JAZZ 1-4pm
Wednesday 21st	THEM GOOD OLE BOYS HILLBILLY CHRISTMAS
Friday 23rd	SLOWBURNER
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Bollards to deter travellers

STUMPS will be installed at two sites in Kidderminster to stop travellers setting up illegal camps.

The plastic posts are being erected at each side of a car park in Heronswood Road, near the Spennells Valley nature reserve, where a group set up camp for about a week in May.

Three bollards will also be installed by highways chiefs at an access road

leading to a field at the end of Turnstone Road. Local councillor John Aston had called for the move after May's incident.

He said: "I'm delighted the work is being carried out at last." Tracey Onslow, Wyre Forest District Council's cabinet member for community wellbeing, added: "It is imperative that council car parks are used appropriately for the benefit of all residents."

Fear on funding for rail station revamp

PLANS to revamp Kidderminster railway station remain in limbo with council bosses admitting they have been unable to secure £3.5million funding despite months of work.

Plans for a new building, forecourt and pedestrian access at Kidderminster Railway Station were first announced more than a year ago.

But funding for the scheme has still not been secured after the economic slump and a failed bid for cash from the Regional Growth Fund derailed the project.

But Worcestershire County Council said it would continue to try to find the cash as planning permission for the project will expire in 2013.

Officers have been looking for alternative sources of money since the Regional Growth Fund bid was rejected in April.

It was a second blow – the scheme had already been delayed for the Government's comprehensive spending review last year.

Park all set for spring flowering

NEARLY 2,000 daffodil bulbs have been planted at a Kidderminster park after members of the Women's Institute held an event bringing in cash to buy them.

The Foley Park branch of the group joined Wyre Forest District Council's parks and green spaces section to plant the bulbs at Brinton Park.

They bought them with money raised through a bring and buy sale and a strawberry tea held in the summer.

Work was carried out in a new area of the park where the council plans to plant more trees and spring flowering bulbs.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, cabinet member for community wellbeing, said: "This is another great example of the community getting involved and helping us improve the area for everyone."



Planting the bulbs are, from left, parks team member Adrian Leonard, Councillor Tracey Onslow, Barbara Mynard, Sally Simmonds and Angela Chipp

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Back from the blaze - joy as firm reopens

A FIRE-RAVAGED factory has risen from the ashes of a devastating blaze and re-opened a new base on a Kidderminster industrial estate.

One of Hard Anodising Ltd's two plants was gutted after a fire in an extraction system last year. The blaze cost the firm £1.7million through a combination of damage and lost revenue – but it has now rebuilt the unit and is ready to return to full production.

Despite the damage, the metal-finishing company was able to increase production at its other plant on the same site.

It meant that no staff lost their jobs as a result of the blaze.

Managing director Phil Bayliss said: "I think we're in a better position compared to where we were before."

"The fire has given us the opportunity to lay out the factory in line with modern standards and practices, and we have spent a lot of money on fitting it out with a brand new plant and equipment."

Smoke

More than 40 firefighters and nine appliances from across Worcestershire were called to the fire when it broke out at the factory on the Firs Trading Estate, Stourport Road, at around 8am on August 23.

Flames up to 100ft high and thick clouds of smoke could be seen billowing from the single-story building before fire crews managed to get the blaze under control.

Mr Bayliss said his 40-strong workforce set about cleaning up and repairing the factory as soon as they could after the fire.

He added: "All this will improve our workflow, making us more productive and efficient."

Alexandra strolls out with Doctor's enemy



Alexandra Westwood, aged 10, is walked to school by a Cyberman from Doctor Who

A KIDDERMINSTER Cyberman made a dream come true for avid Doctor Who fan Alexandra Westwood by walking her to school.

The 10-year-old from Halesowen was taken to her lessons at Huntingtree Primary School by one of the Doctor's biggest enemies from the cult television show.

Alexandra's wish was granted by the Wishing Well charity, based at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital. She spent time on the children's ward after an ear operation in September. Steve Ford, of Wishing Well, said: "Alexandra has to be the world's biggest Doctor Who fan. She even wore Doctor Who socks for the occasion."

The Cyberman was film and TV prop builder Nigel Parkes, of Kidderminster, who has a collection of Doctor Who memorabilia.

New speaker for meeting

MEMBERS of Hartlebury Common will be joined by a new guest speaker at their December meeting.

Long-standing member Martin Gavin will host the talk on volunteering on the Common as part of the last AGM of the year, at 8pm, on Monday, December 5, at Stourport Boat Club.

Mr Gavin replaces Geoff Neil, who has had to cancel due to illness.

Admission is £3. Details: www.hartleburycommonlo calgroup.org.uk or call the group chairwoman Joy Rooney on 01299 877275.

Cafe roof is hit by blaze

AN ELECTRICAL fire damaged the cafe of a Kidderminster garden centre.

Bosses raised the alarm at Hodgehill Garden Centre, in Birmingham Road, after discovering the blaze in its early stages at 6.50am on November 23.

Watch Commander Adrian Farmer from Kidderminster fire station said the fire had broken out in the cafe roof space. The roof suffered smoke and fire damage.

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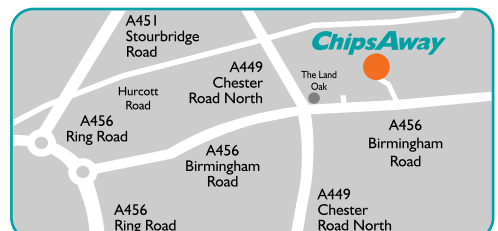
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A glimpse into the future of education

BIRMINGHAM Metropolitan College and Kidderminster College have announced that they intend to work together to open a new academy in Kidderminster town centre to provide education and training opportunities for young people and to support local businesses.

From September 2012, The Academy at Kidderminster will deliver full time courses for up to 1,000 16-18 year-olds from the Piano Building, in Weavers Walk, which is to undergo a stunning £6.1million refurbishment.

The new facility will help to meet the social and economic needs of learners and of local businesses, and will help to satisfy employer needs in areas such as mobile applications, electronics, fashion, visual merchandising and food technologies.

Progression

The courses provided will offer career progression for learners, and this will maximise the vitality of Kidderminster as a place to live and work by supporting the growth of the local region.

Speaking at Wyre Forest District Council's ReWyre Conference, representatives from both colleges confirmed that the academy would broaden education choices for young people while addressing local skill shortages at a time when the Wyre Forest area is undergoing major plans for regeneration.

Principal and chief executive of Birmingham Metropolitan College, Dr Christine

Braddock CBE commented: "We welcome the opportunity to work with a college that is as passionate as we are about providing relevant skills training for young people in vibrant learning spaces."

"The Academy will give 16-18 year-olds access to unique learning opportunities that have not before been available to them locally."

"This in turn will enable them to play their part in maximising the economic potential of the Wyre Forest area, particularly in the enterprise, hospitality and catering sectors," she added.

Andy Dobson, principal and chief executive of Kidderminster College said: "This exciting new institution will use the shared expertise of both colleges while bringing a new creative and innovative curriculum to Kidderminster."

"The facilities will be truly outstanding and will provide a huge creative and cultural boost to the area, which will benefit stu-

dents, the local community, new media entrepreneurs and local businesses."

The proposed curriculum will include computer games development, fashion design and retail, 3D animation, electronics and construction as well as professional services.

Food preparation and hospitality courses and entrepreneurship courses will also be supported by on-site amenities including a stylish cafeteria/bistro outlet.

Launch

To celebrate the forthcoming launch of The Academy at Kidderminster, Birmingham Metropolitan College and Kidderminster College will be hosting an Open Event at The Piano Building on Saturday December 10, from 12pm-4pm.

Hosted by Kerrang! Radio's DJ and gaming enthusiast, Alex Baker, the afternoon will be filled with live bands, gaming tournaments, fashion shows and 'Dragons Den' style events in which everyone can get involved.



New academy – a joint venture between Birmingham Metropolitan College and Kidderminster College



The new college will benefit from truly excellent facilities, including this proposed hospitality suite



The Piano Building, in Weavers Walk, Kidderminster, is to undergo a stunning £6.1million refurbishment



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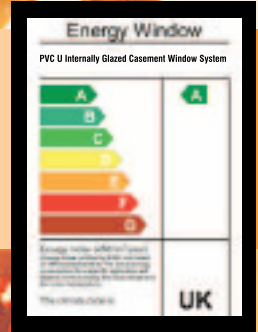
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The new park penguins settle in



The penguins enjoy a shower

Splash hit as penguins get a new home

A £500,000 habitat has been created to house a colony of Humboldt penguins at West Midland Safari Park.

The park in Bewdley has officially opened its new Penguin Cove exhibit - the latest in a series of improvements to the site over the past year.

The cove has been built in the Discovery Trail area of the park and is designed to provide the penguins with a habitat similar to their native South America.

Nesting areas, a pool with semi-submerged beach, a waterfall and sculptures all form part of the new area.

There is also a penguin house and glass-fronted viewing areas where visitors will be able to watch the penguins as they swim under water.

Digital information screens have been installed and staff will give talks about the penguins and the habitat. Feeding opportunities are planned for the future.

Village

The 14-strong colony arrived at the park in October and has now moved into the new exhibit.

The park's director of wildlife Bob Lawrence said: "This is yet another major exhibit which has been introduced at the safari park for 2011," he said.

"The first development was the African village, followed by the Walking with Lemurs and Meerkat Mayhem exhibits which have all proved to be very popular."

Mr Lawrence said it was the first time a major exhibit had been opened specifically to tie in with the winter season and it would fit in nicely with the site's traditional Santa Safari.

Park spokeswoman Wendy Jackson said the penguins had taken to their new habitat straight away. "They absolutely adore their new environment which has been tailored to their regular habitat. They seem really happy at the cove."

Burglar found in home

A COUPLE discovered a burglar in their Kidderminster home after hearing a noise coming from the back door.

They found the man, who was wearing dark clothes, standing in their lounge and ordered him to leave. He left through the back door of the house in Harold Evers Way and jumped over a side fence into a neighbour's garden. He was seen heading in the direction of St George's churchyard.

The break-in happened at around 5.30pm on November 22 and police are now appealing for witnesses.

The burglar is described as white, about 30 years old, slim build and between 5ft 11ins and 6ft tall.

He was wearing a dark beanie-style hat, dark jacket and possibly jeans. Pc Adrian Bartlett said: "We are eager to hear from anyone who remembers seeing a man fitting this description in the area."

Thieves take TV and a laptop

A TELEVISION, laptop and organ were among items stolen in a burglary in Kidderminster.

It happened between 11.30pm on Saturday and 8.45pm the following day, at a home off Wilden Lane.

The organ and a carriage clock were found nearby but the other items, worth more than £500, are still missing.

First professional show is hailed as a success

STOURPORT Civic Group is celebrating a successful first professional theatre performance.

Arabian Nights, by Fairgame Theatre Company as part of Shindig! performances, attracted more than 100 people to the Civic Hall.

Civic Group chair Ian Bradley said: "Arabian Nights was a major success! It was really encouraging to see so many people turn up on the night and then to see them having such an enjoyable evening. We have received lots of positive feedback from the audience."

Vice-chair John Caldwell said: "Early indications are that we have covered the costs of the show and generated a small but healthy profit, which alongside the very positive comments we have heard is superb!"

The success continued when the Civic Group hosted a craft fair at Stourport Civic Hall as part of the well-supported Three Kings Parade. It featured local produce from Stourport including honey, hand-crafted cards, prints, paintings and jewellery. More details on the Civic Group at www.theciviciestourport.co.uk

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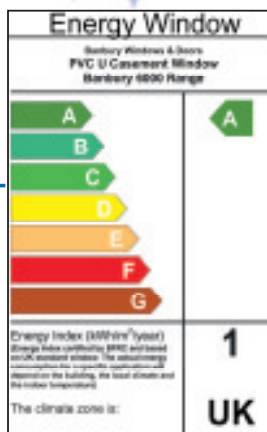
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Raids on several garages

MOTOCROSS bikes, pedal cycles and household equipment worth thousands of pounds have been stolen in a string of break-ins at garages in Kidderminster.

Thieves struck at seven garages in streets across the town, making off with more than £6,000 worth of items. Police are investigating to see if the thefts are linked and are asking witnesses, or anyone with information, to get in touch with them.

The garages, adjoining homes and gardens, were hit during the weekend before last and the start of the following week.

Among the places targeted was a garage in Peel Street, broken into between 7pm on Saturday and 7pm on Monday and where two mountain bikes were stolen.

Two motocross bikes, one a yellow Suzuki worth £2,500 and the other a green Kawasaki, were taken from a garage in Swift Park Grove between midnight on the Sunday and 8am next day. Thieves also made off with three helmets, with a total value of £480, and a £400 pair of boots.

Three garages were broken into along Oldnall Road between 7pm on the Sunday and 8am next day.

Witnesses should call Pc Emma Gunnell on 0300 333 3000.

Surviving the oil crisis - in film

A GROUP campaigning to reduce reliance on fossil fuels is hosting a film tonight (December 1).

Transition Bewdley presents "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil" at 7.30pm at the Baptist Church, High Street. Details: 01299 400952.

All aboard! Dial-a-Ride still on the move at 25

MEMBERS call it "the best thing since sliced bread" and today Wyre Forest's Dial-a-Ride service toasts 25 years of helping residents in the community.

The transport service was born in 1986 in an attempt to overcome the difficulties faced by those with mobility issues following the pedestrianisation of Kidderminster town centre.

Rob Hartell, co-founder and chairman of Dial-a-Ride, explains: "It was decided to form a door-to-door service for the handicapped and people with mobility problems in the Wyre Forest area using suitably adapted minibuses."

After many weeks of fundraising, the Wyre Forest Dial-a-Ride service began serving the local community from December 1, 1986 using a second-hand ambulance donated by Hereford Ambulance Service.

Although Dial-a-Ride's fleet now contains four minibuses - thanks in part to Lottery funding - the premise of the service still remains the same.

Fixed

Each year members pay £15 which allows the charity to maintain the permit given by Worcester County Council and helps to cover basic insurance costs.

Once enrolled, members are free to call and if there is a minibus available, Dial-a-Ride can take them wherever they need to go.

Each member is charged a fixed rate of £2.50 for a journey of up to three miles and £3.50 for one of up to five miles. Concessionary fares are available for those with bus passes.

The non-profit organisation uses the money to help cover the cost of fuel and insurance as well as maintaining the buses.

Dial-a-Ride has been getting Wyre Forest residents out and about for 25 years. Laura Maltby reports

Dial-a-Ride is the only mobility service in the area which can carry mobility scooters and wheelchairs, something which 64-year-old Mr Hartell sees as a great advantage.

He also describes the service as very personal explaining how drivers sometimes offer to help by carrying shopping for the members.

"Our members say the only time they go out in the week is when we pick them up to go to the shops or to the hospital," he said.

"A few years ago we had a lady who was 102. Every Friday we would pick her and her carer up and take them into the town centre to do some shopping. She remembered every driver's name!"

"We have also carried an eight-year-old boy with Muscular Dystrophy before; there really is no age limit to using Dial-a-Ride."

But in spite of the success stories, the charity faces testing times.

He said: "We hope to keep the service to our community going. But

with continually rising diesel prices, we will certainly struggle with the cost of running the minibuses next year."

Last year a grant of £10,000 from Wyre Forest District Council was halved owing to cutbacks during the financial crisis.

The service relies primarily on volunteers who give up their time during the week, either to drive or help with administration.

Rob says it is down to the goodwill and kindness of the volunteers that

the service has been able to continue for so long.

"Following funding from the Lottery we were able to pay some of our drivers alongside our team of loyal volunteers," he said.

Brilliant

"We have around eight people who regularly give up their morning or afternoons to drive for us."

"Malcolm Crump and Phil Beard have been driving for 14 and 10 years respectively.



Dial-a-Ride chairman Rob Hartell, centre, celebrates the charity's 25th anniversary with drivers Roy Quinn, left, aged 68, and Malcolm Crump, 64

Under-age drinkers are taken to safety

SIX GIRLS, including several caught drinking under-age, were removed from the streets of Wyre Forest as part of a police operation.

Dedicated patrols hit the streets of the district as part of Operation Staysafe and set up a safe centre for youngsters at the youth house base on Bromsgrove Street in Kidderminster.

During the course of one evening there were two incidents, at Bewdley and Comberton, which led to three girls aged 13 and 14 being taken to the safe centre after they were found with alcohol.

Drug

In a separate incident at Comberton three girls aged 13 to 17 were taken into police protection after they were found in the company of a drunk woman and a youth who was using the illegal drug mephedrone. The youngsters' parents were called.

Inspector Paul Crowley said: "Some of the parents were unaware of where their youngsters were and concerned about the vulnerable positions they had put themselves in."

"We have protected six young females from coming to possible harm."

"All have been referred to various agencies which will look to deal with the issues," he added.

Sharon Himsworth, prevention manager for the youth offending service in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, said some of the girls taken to the centre had been drinking alcohol including vodka and cider.

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England star hands out cricket awards

CRICKETERS in Stourport were handed awards by England batting star Jonathan Trott.

Trott, the International Cricket Council cricketer of the year for 2011, spent the evening handing out prizes and also appeared in a question and answer session.

The England number three, who was pivotal to the Ashes victory, also signed autographs and posed throughout the night for photographs.

Among the main Stourport Cricket Club award winners were Neal Delo, clubman of the year.

The club secretary and has worked tirelessly to push Stourport CC forward both on and off the pitch.

Record

Eddie Giles was presented with the Worcestershire Cricket League groundsman of the year award.

The prestigious award recognises his work in producing a wicket regarded as one of the best throughout the county.

Andy Siwicki was the first XI batsman of the year, scoring 1,135 runs in the WCL at an average of 66.76 – a division record.

Stourport were able to look back on a highly successful 2011.

Three of their four teams gained promotion this year, including the first XI.

They now look forward to competing in Division Two next season.



Jonathan Trott with groundsman of the year Eddie Giles



Junior cricketer of the year Will Downes with Jonathan Trott



Jonathan Trott with club president Clive Hutton, left, and award winners, from left, Dave Tristram, Josh Harrison, Andy Siwicki, Adam Selleck, Ethan Lockwood and Sarah Cavendish

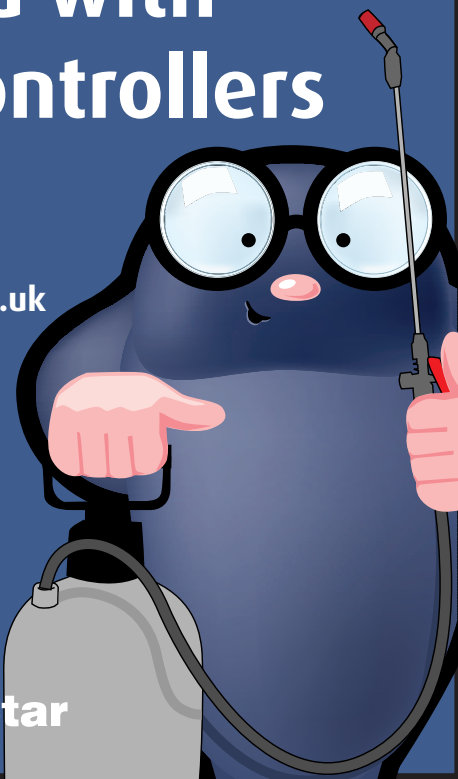


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Santa's Christmas train, the Merry Hill Express

FAMILIES are being given the chance to get into the festive spirit at Merry Hill Shopping Centre's Christmas Grotto, which is open to shoppers until Christmas Eve.

The centre has been transformed into a winter wonderland with the arrival of the grotto which features a whole host of festive activities, including cheeky penguins and interactive games created especially by Santa's elves.

Shoppers can climb aboard the Merry Hill Express in Fountain Square, on the lower mall near M&S - the experience starts from just £3.95 per child,

including a present from Santa. Once inside Santa's grotto, visitors will get the chance to meet and receive a gift from Santa and have their photograph taken with him.

To celebrate the arrival of the amazing Grotto, Merry Hill has teamed up with West Midland Safari Park to offer five lucky winners a special festive gift package which includes a family pass to the safari park, a £50 gift card to spend at Merry Hill, as well as a family invitation to Merry Hill's Christmas Grotto.

To be in with the chance of winning this great prize, all you need to do is answer the question in the panel on this page.

HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning simply answer the following question:

Where can shoppers climb on board the Merry Hill Express? Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to MERRY+HILL, competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, December 8. Usual rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

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Your Chronicle

at Christmas



To advertise in any of the Kidderminster Chronicle's Christmas and New Year features: Call 01562 829500 and ask for one of the names on the Christmas stockings above.



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26th November - 24th December 2011

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2011!!**



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KATY O'RYAN'S THE OLD TICKET OFFICE

The original ticket office at Hartlebury Train Station has been transformed into a fantastic new pub and restaurant venue open from 12 noon daily.

A sumptuous à La Carte restaurant with a 50 Bin wine list, bar meals are also available daily.

A selection of Real Ales including Holdens, Envile, Young's Winter Warmer, Hobgoblin, EPA, Green King IPA, St Austell Tribute award winning beer, and an extensive range of Ciders and Lagers. Also a spirit list to die for needs seeing to be believed.

Christmas Bookings now being taken, contact Luther and the Team on the number below

Coming soon - Attwoods Nectar Bitter from our own on site MicroBrewery

Station Road, Hartlebury DY11 7YJ
Tel: 01299 253275



thechronicle

BOOKS

Cracking contraptions and marvellous manuals

HAYNES workshop manuals have long been a mainstay of an amateur car mechanic's garage or workshop but in recent years the respected imprint has diversified into other areas, including out-and-out fantasy engineering. Here's a round-up of several new Haynes titles, for vehicles both real and imagined.

Green's work on the MG, first published in 1998, has been updated by motoring journalist Andrew Roberts.

RouteMASTER Bus: 1954 onwards (all marks) (£21.99)

This enthusiast's manual celebrates the classic red double-decker that became an icon of London and served the capital for more than half a century. The much-detested bendy buses certainly never replaced the Routemaster in the hearts of Londoners and some might say Britain has never been quite the same since they were finally retired from service in 2005.

Co-founder of the Routemaster Association Andrew Morgan must have considered putting this book together a labour of love, he even owns a rare single-decker Routemaster.



Self-cracking, how ingenious!

Wallace & Gromit: Cracking Contraptions Manual 2 (£12.99)

From the Bun Vac 6000 to the Mind Manipulation-o-matic via the LAD (Labour Assisting Device), another selection of barmy creations from the wonderful world of Wallace and Gromit are brought to life with detailed technical descriptions. A collaboration between Haynes and Aardman animation.

MG: Britain's Favourite Sports Car (£25)

The third edition in the Haynes Classic Makes Series pays homage to the pride of Longbridge. Handsomely illustrated and rich in detail, enthusiast Malcolm



Millennium Falcon: Modified YT-1300 Corellian Freighter (£14.99)

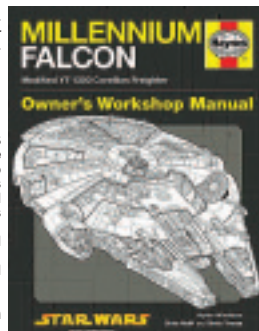
With the exception of the USS Enterprise (which has also had the Haynes treatment), there can be no space ship more famous in the annals of science fiction than Han Solo and Chewbacca's craft from the Star Wars movies.

The souped-up freighter is explored in meticulous detail in this manual approved by Lucasfilm and created by a team of Star Wars devotees.

Driving Games: From Gran Trak 10 to Gran Turismo (£9.99)

It is fitting that an imprint so associated with the mechanics of the motor car has seen fit to cast its expert eye over the evolution of the driving genre in video games.

Fifty of the best releases are selected, from arcade and home



console releases, ranging from the very basic Checkered Flag for the ZX Spectrum in 1983 to Forza Motorsport 2 for the Xbox 360.

But don't expect it to be bang up to date, this was put together in 2008.

LB

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KC

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

thechronicle

Pass the port

ONCE a vintage port has been decanted and the moment has come to enjoy it, tradition dictates that the decanter should be placed on the table to the right of the host or hostess.

It should then be passed to the left, travelling round the table from guest to guest in a clockwise direction until it comes back to its starting point. Although the tradition is most often observed when serving vintage port, it is also often followed with other port styles.

There are many arcane and colourful explanations for the custom of passing the port to the left.

One theory is that the custom arose from the need to keep one's sword arm free in case of trouble. It is sometimes said to have originated in the Royal Navy where the rule was 'port to port', meaning that the decanter (most likely a ship's decanter) should be passed to the left. In the Royal Navy the Royal Toast is traditionally drunk in port and, in contrast to the other branches of the British armed forces, the officers remain seated.

However, the reason why the custom is followed today is quite simple. If the decanter keeps moving in the same direction, every guest has the opportunity to enjoy the wine and no-one is left out. The decanter travels clockwise because most people are right handed.

Bishop

If a guest fails to pass the decanter to his or her neighbour, it will come to a standstill. This usually happens because a guest does not notice that the decanter is there, does not realise that they should pass it on or, more rarely, hopes that no one will notice so they can have a second glass. Guests waiting for the decanter to arrive may become impatient. However, it is considered bad form to demand that the decanter be passed on. Instead, the person who is preventing the decanter from continuing its journey round the table is asked politely 'Do you know the Bishop of Norwich?' This is a gentle reminder to get the decanter moving again. If the meaning does not sink in, the less subtle alternative 'Is your passport in order?' may be used.

The origin of 'Do you know the Bishop of Norwich?' is attributed to Henry Bathurst Bishop of Norwich from 1805 to 1837. Bishop Bathurst lived to the age of 93 by which time his eyesight was deteriorating and he had developed a tendency to fall asleep at the table towards the end of the meal. As a result he often failed to pass on the port decanters several of which would accumulate by his right elbow to the consternation of those seated further up the table. A bon vivant said to possess a prodigious capacity for wine, he was suspected of using these frailties to his advantage.

The need to invoke the Bishop of Norwich can, of course, be avoided by the simple expedient of using a hoggit. This is a round-bottomed decanter which can only stand up when resting on a wooden support placed on the table to the right of the host or hostess. As it cannot be put down, it is passed directly from one guest to another and travels round the table in one continuous movement without stopping until it returns to its base at the head of the table.

To learn more about port and its traditions see www.taylor.pt website.



Vintage port being served in a hoggit

Recommended port for this festive season:

Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas Vintage Port 2001, from £26.99 and available from Tesco, Waitrose, Majestic and Selfridges. Lots of mouth filling plum and black fruit flavour with a long, lingering dark chocolate finish. Serve with a buttery blue cheese, such as Stilton.

Taylor's Ten Year Old Tawny, from £19.99 and widely available, this is an exceptionally fine blend aged for ten years in oak casks. Elegant and smooth with wood and figgy notes, it goes well with soft cheese such as brie and could also be drunk as a dessert wine, especially with coffee or almond flavoured dishes. Try it well chilled.

Taylor's Late Bottled Vintage 2005, £13.79 and widely available. Taylor's were pioneers of the LBV category, developed to satisfy the demand for a quality ready-to-drink alternative to vintage port for everyday consumption. Unlike vintage, which is bottled after only two years in wood and ages in bottle, LBV is bottled after four to six years and is ready to drink. Excellent with Stilton or Roquefort or even a chocolate pudding.

Fonseca Bin 27 Reserve Port, £10.79 at Tesco and Morrison. Although it may improve slightly with bottle age, Bin 27 is ready to consume when bottled. It does not require decanting, as a cold precipitation prior to bottling prevents any 'crust' from forming. Velvety and rich, one can see why the Fonseca family once kept it for themselves.

Croft Pink Port, £10.88 from J Sainsbury and Co-Op. Here's the party wine. This rosé style of port should be served well chilled. It's fresh, vibrant with cherry and raspberry flavours.

The Swan Centre brings Christmas to Kidderminster!

Join Santa in his Magical Christmas Grotto

Blackwell Street, Kidderminster
Until Saturday 24th December

Enjoy walking through the enchanting Christmas wonderland

Meet Father Christmas in his Own magical grotto

Have your photograph taken with Santa as a keepsake or as a gift for your friends and family.

If you are too shy to tell Santa everything you would like for Christmas you can post your letter in his post box

Entrance to Santa's Grotto - meet Father Christmas - Receive special gift £6.00 per child - Fee paying child may be accompanied by one adult

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Entrance to wonderland / Santa's grotto reserved for fee paying customers only. No photography permitted. FOR OPENING TIMES OR MORE INFORMATION CALL HELM - 01562 753210 OR CHECK www.theswancentre.com

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December 3rd

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Adult Members £5 • Adult Non Members £7 • Children Under 14 Free

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KRISTEN SWEET Vocalist
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Children's Entertainer
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Makers DC FONTANA
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7.30 pm

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ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Cont. Beginners: Mon. 9th Jan. 19.00-20.30, 11 wks. £42.10 #
Cont. Improvers: Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-20.30, 11 wks. £42.10 #

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Mon. 12th Mar. 19.00-21.00, 6 wks. £30.60 #

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CHARGES: £10 registration fee per term plus £12 certificate fee No reductions! No hidden extras.

CREATIVE WRITING

Mon. 9th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 5 wks. £25.50 #
Mon. 20th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 5 wks. £25.50 #

INTRO TO FAMILY HISTORY

Mon 20th Feb 13.30-15.30 OR Thurs 1st Mar. 19.00-21.00. Both 5 wks. £36.00 #

GOING FURTHER WITH FAMILY HISTORY

Mon 9th Jan. 13.30-15.30 5 wks. £36.00 #

CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE

Wed 1st Feb 10.00-12.00 OR Thurs 2nd Feb 19.00-21.00. Both 7 wks £50.40 #

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Short'N'Sweet Mon 20th Feb. 14.00-16.00 3 wks. £21.60 #

DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS

Short'N'Sweet Mon 12th Mar. 14.00-16.00, 3 wks. £21.60 #

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suitable for all levels
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Wed 11th Jan. 10.00-12.00, 13 wks. £56.10 #
Thurs 12th Jan. 10.00-12.30, 13 wks. £70.20 #
Thurs 12th Jan. 13.30-15.30, 13 wks. £56.10 #

INTRO. TO DIGITAL IMAGING USING PHOTOSHOP

ELEMENTS Mon 9th Jan. 10.00-12.00 OR Wed. 22nd Feb. 13.30-15.30. Both 5 wks. £49.50 #

CONT. DIGITAL IMAGING USING PHOTOSHOP

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CANAL ART

Mon 12th Mar. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

ROSES AND CASTLES

Tues 10th Jan. 13.30-15.30. 5 wks. £25.50 #

JEWELLERY MAKING

Short'N'Sweet Beginners: Mon 23rd Jan. 19.00-21.00 OR Tues. 24th Jan. 10.00-12.00, Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY MAKING

Improvers: Mon 27th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 5 wks £25.50 #
OR Tues.13th Mar. 9.30-12.30, 3 wks. £22.95 #

FACE PAINTING and GLITTER TATTOOS

Mon 20th Feb. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £24.60 Cons. £19.20 and £8

FLOWER ARRANGING

Short'N'Sweet Mon 23rd Jan. 10.00-12.00. 3 wks. £25.60 Cons. £20.20 and £9
Continuing: Mon.20th Feb.10.00-12.00. 6 wks. £30.60 #

FLORISTRY

Short'N'Sweet Thurs 26th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £25.60 Cons. £20.20 and £9
Continuing: Thurs 23rd Feb.19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £30.60 #

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Both 5 wks. £25.50

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Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

UPHOLSTERY

Short'N'Sweet Tues 21st Feb. 10.00-12.00 OR Mon.13th Mar. 19.00-21.00 Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

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Short'N'Sweet Tues. 24th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

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Short'N'Sweet Tues. 21st Feb. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

INTRO. TO REFLEXOLOGY

Short'N'Sweet Tues. 13th Mar. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

DE-STRESS:REFRESH:RE-BOOST

Tues. 28th Feb.13.30-15.30 OR Thurs 1st Mar. 19.00-21.00. Both 5 wks. £25.50 #

YOGA

Wed 11th Jan. 19.15-20.45, 4 wks. £24.80
Wed 22nd Feb.19.15-20.45, 6 wks. £37.20

PILATES

Beginners: Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 11 wks. £33.00
Beginners: Wed 11th Jan. 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Beginners: Thurs 12th Jan. 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Improvers: Thurs 12th Jan. 19.05-20.05, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Improvers: Thurs 12th Jan. 20.10-21.10, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Beginners@Oakfield. Fri 13th Jan.10.00-11.00, 11 wks. £39.60 #

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

Tues 10th Jan 20.05-21.05, 11 wks. £33.00

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS

Courses begin Mon 9th Jan for 11 wks. Fee £33.00 #
19.00-19.45 Beginners and Improvers:
19.45-20.30 Intermediates:
20.30-21.15 Beginners and Improvers

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In a group of 2 or 1 to 1. Contact the office for further details

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13th Feb 2012, 10th Apr 2012, 23rd OR 30th July 2012.
All 8.30-17.00. 6 days. £172 plus additional fees £78.75

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TEACHERS/COACHES Thurs 29th and Fri 30th Mar. 2012, 8.30-16.00, add. fees £26.95. 1 day retake subject to previous qualification and training £36.50, add. fees £26.95

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Sat. 25th Feb OR Fri. 23rd Mar. Both 09.00-16.00. 1 day. £36.50

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Fri. 24th Feb OR Sat. 24th Mar. Both 09.00-13.00. 1/2 day £24.30

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Mon 9th Jan. 19.00-21.00 OR Wed 1st Feb. 10.00-12.00 Both 8 wks. £40.80 #

INTRO. TO TRADING ON THE STOCK MARKET

Wed. 14th Mar. 19.00-21.00, 3 wks £21.60 # Short'N'Sweet

PLAY THE GUITAR

Beginners: Thurs 19th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 10 wks. £36.00 #
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Improvers: Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.10 #
Intermediates: Mon 9th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.10 #
Short'N'Sweet Fri 2nd Mar. 13.30-15.30, 3 wks. £21.60 #

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Mon 16th Jan. OR Mon 27th Feb. 19.00-21.00
Tues 17th Jan 10.00-12.00 OR Fri 2nd Mar. 11.30-13.30 .
All 3 wks, £21.60 #

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Fridays 11.30-13.30 5 wks from 6th Jan. Thursdays 12.30-14.30 5 wks from 23rd Feb.

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Improve your existing skills working on the internet. Choose 2 modules from e-mail, internet surfing and internet safety. Not for complete beginners. Places MUST be booked in advance
Mon. 19th Mar. 19.00-21.00 OR Tues. 20th Mar. 10.00-12.00

COMPUTING for the TERRIFIED

Learn to use a computer from scratch! Thurs 12th Jan. 12.30-14.30 OR Tues 21st Feb. 10.00-12.00 Both 4 wks. £39.60 #

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A brilliant opportunity for kids (over 5 years old) to learn tunes on electric or acoustic guitar and have fun! Provide your own guitar, an adult must remain onsite with children aged 5-8 years old. Other conditions apply

Beginners: Mon 9th Jan. 5 wks.

16.45—17.45, £43.30

Intermediates: Thurs 12th Jan.

11 wks. 17.45—18.45, £43.25



LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

TERM DATES : Wed. 4th Jan.—Sun. 1st Apr. 11 wks. Mon-Tues
All other 12wks. No classes 13th—19th Feb. 2012

	11wk	12wk
COST: All lessons from Beg. to Inters 3.	£38.50	£42.00
First Steps and Pre beginners	£44.55	£48.60
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We operate 7 days a week and offer sessions at the following standards:

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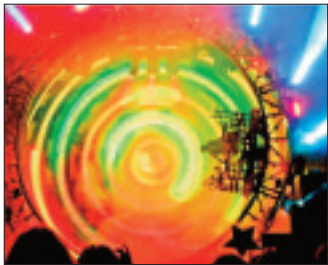
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Drummer set to turn concert upside down



No tricks as drummer Tommy Lee spins around

MÖTLEY CRÜE have announced that drummer Tommy Lee will be bringing his 360 degree drum rollercoaster to the LG Arena on Tuesday, December 6, for their co-headline tour with Def Leppard.

The rollercoaster sees Lee taken upside down and spun around as he plays solo. It will be the first time that it is seen in the UK as the Birmingham dates are the first on the tour.

Tommy Lee says: "This idea came about from when I was a kid going to concerts. Whenever the drummer started his drum solo, I wondered why people would leave to go get a beer, buy a T-shirt, restroom, whatever.

Agenda

"I wanted to show people what happens behind the drum set, so I decided to expose it all by flipping the drums vertical, upside-down making them disappear and fly over the audience's heads.

The four-piece, which includes infamous drummer Lee and bassist Nikki Sixx, have sold more than 80 million albums over the world. Mötley Crüe's ninth studio album *Saints of Los Angeles* was nominated for 'Best Hard Rock Performance' at the US Grammys proving the band is still high on the rock and metal fan agenda.

Tickets are on sale now, priced at £45 (subject to booking and transaction fees). Call The Ticket Factory on 0844 338 8000 or log on to www.theticketfactory.com



The Grumbleweeds – Robin Colvill and Graham Walker



Linda Lusardi and Sam Kane take starring roles in the panto



Niki Evans returns to the Grand as The Fairy

Snow business like Grand's pantomime

HUSBAND and wife team Sam Kane and Linda Lusardi are set to star at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this festive season in the classic pantomime *Snow White* and the Seven Dwarfs with top comedy double act The Grumbleweeds and singing sensation Niki Evans.

Linda will play the wicked queen and real-life husband, Sam, will star as the prince in the Christmas show which marks their 14th pantomime season together.

Linda and Sam last appeared on stage together at the Grand Theatre in Robin Hood in 1998/99 which marked the re-opening of the theatre

after its £9 million pound refurbishment.

Linda has enjoyed a 25-year career spanning the world of stage, film and television. Her many stage roles include *Funny Peculiar*, *Bedside Manner*, *Not Now Darling*, *Pygmalion* and *Rock with Laughter*.

Sam, who will also be directing the pantomime, has been a stalwart of musical theatre for many years. He has appeared in numerous stage shows including the West End production of *The Rat Pack*, *Hot Flush*, *Simply Ballroom*, *Carousel*, *Boogie Nights* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* to name but a few.

Joining Linda and Sam and returning to the Grand are pantomime favourites, The Grumbleweeds in the roles of Muddles and Chambers.

The comedy duo, Robin Colvill and Graham Walker, have brought the

house down with their uproarious antics in venues across the world and have received rave reviews for their performances in record-breaking pantomimes around the country.

Niki Evans, who appeared in *Cinderella* at the Grand two years ago, joins the cast in the role of The Fairy.

Audition

Niki is currently touring the UK as Mrs Johnstone in the smash-hit musical *Blood Brothers*, which played at the Grand Theatre last year, following a run of the show in London's West End.

And after an open audition process held at the Grand Theatre, 14 children were selected to play the roles of the seven dwarfs.

All from Wolverhampton and the region the successful stars were Ben Evans (Sedgley), Ellie Joy Gough (Telford), Ellie May Gray (Wolver-

hampton), Emily Taylor (Willenhall), James Harris (Walsall), Joseph Turton (Willenhall), Lily Moxen (Shrewsbury), Mia Mould (Wolverhampton), Mya Dior Wright (Wolverhampton), Roberta Harpur (Walsall), Samuel Lear (Bilston), Thomas Withers (Kingswinford), Zoe Oakley (Tettenhall) and Tilly Thompson (Tettenhall).

Linda Lusardi said on her forthcoming role: "I'm really looking forward to returning to Wolverhampton and to the Grand Theatre, where I played *Snow White* in 1993 and *Maid Marion* in Robin Hood in 1998, and being a part of theatre's great pantomime tradition."

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs runs at the Grand Theatre from Saturday, December 10 to Sunday, January 22, 2012. Tickets can be booked on 01902 42 92 12, or online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Hear Chris's new footsteps

CHRIS de Burgh is at the NIA tomorrow night and fans can expect him to play songs from his latest album 'Footsteps 2' as part of his worldwide tour.

The most recent album is a collection of cover songs that the singer feels have had a big impact on both his career and personal life.

One track, *The Living Years* by Mike & the Mechanics reflects the relationship that Chris had with his father growing up.

The performer, most famous for hit song *The Lady in Red*, will be performing the songs from 'Footsteps 2' live for the first time, as well as mixing in some classics and surprising crowds with some brand new material.

For ticket availability call 0844 338 8000.



NIA date for Chris de Burgh

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Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast, 6.15 *RFI* (On Britain), 8.00 *Home Under the Hammer*, (R) 9.00 *BBC News*, *Weather*, 11.00 *Notice*, 11.30 *Countryfile*, 12.00 *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, 1.00 *BBC News*, *Weather*, 1.30 *Regional News*, *Weather*, 1.50 *Doctors*, 2.00 *Only Fools and Horses*, 2.35 *BBC2*, 3.15 *Pointless*, 3.45 *BBC News*, *Weather*, 6.30 *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, 7.00 *One Show*, 7.30 *BBC News*, *Regional News*, 8.00 *EndEnder*, 8.30 *The Two Ronnies Sketchbook*, 9.00 *Have I Got News for You*, 9.30 *Use of the Word*, 10.00 *BBC1*, 10.30 *5 Regional News*, 11.00 *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, The National Lottery *April Night Draw*, 11.30 *First The Last Hours*, (2008) *Romantic Fantasy*, *dancing Sandra Bullock* and *Heavenly Creatures*, 11.55 *Weather*, *News*, *Sun News*, *Dragon Den*, (R) 12.00 *Planet Word*, (R) 2.00 *Dragon Den*, 2.30 *BBC News*.

BBC2 6.00 *Cbeebies*, 7.00 *CBBC*, 8.25 *Cbeebies*, 11.35 *The Pink Panther Show*, 12.00 *Daily Politics*, 12.30 *Line Shooter*; UK Championship, The opening session of the first continental, 2.30 *Flog It!*, 3.15 *Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is*, 6.00 *Eggheads*, 6.30 *Stridly Come Dancing* - it's Tiler, Two, 7.00 *Line Shooter*; UK Championship, The concluding session of the first continental, 8.00 *Ant & Dec's Christmas*, 8.30 *MasterChef: The Professionals*, 9.00 *MasterChef: The Professionals*, 9.30 *MasterChef: The Professionals*, 10.00 *Cl*, 10.30 *Newswatch*, 11.00 *The Sunday Show*, 11.35 *Weather*, 11.50 *Line Shooter*; UK Championship, 12.30 *Film*:

[illegible][illegible]

Channel 5

6.00 Michaela 8.15 The
Widgit Stars 11.10 LIVE with
Gailie 12.10 S Newc Lunchtime 12.15 Law &
Order 9.1 1.15 Home and Away 1.15 Neighbours
2.15 CSI: Miami 3.45 1.PM The National Tree
2007 4.00 Newsnight 5.00 Newsnight 5.00
6.00 Home and Away 6.25 On Call 7.00 3
Newc at 7 7.20 PM Gailie S Newc Update 7.30 3
Road Traffic: Deadliest Roads S Newc at 8.00
PM Michaela 8.00 2007 11.05 Point Blank 9.00
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Ford's stars on show

THE Los Angeles Auto Show saw a bundle of new launches targeted at North American shores – but a few bits worthy of interest from a UK perspective also made an appearance.

In a show that would have been dwarfed next to the IAA at Frankfurt earlier this year, the buzzwords were efficiency, value and style.

Fuel economy is finally a concern for everyday Americans, and the reality of driving true gas-guzzlers is hitting home. But thankfully most of the new, more-frugal releases unveiled at the show – which ran until November 27 – actually look good.

Ford had a few things on display that, since its decision to build single models for a global market, will also be seen in Europe.

The Escape compact SUV will be better known over here as the next Kuga. Once Ford has swapped the badges and installed some new diesel engines it will be shown off at the Geneva Motor Show in March.

There was also a prototype model of the proposed Fiesta ST, along with a racing version.

Ford is known in Europe for its fast hatchbacks so the idea of it not being built is unthinkable, and it was actually first shown at Frankfurt earlier this year.

It takes its styling cues from the production-ready

Focus ST, which is set to star in the film remake of The Sweeney. The hot Fiesta will feature a 1.6-litre EcoBoost engine with around 180bhp.

Volkswagen offered another interesting concept, with its Beetle R. Intended to form part of the 'R' brand that VW is trying to build, the Beetle would share its 260bhp-ish turbo-charged four-cylinder engine with the Golf R and the Scirocco R.

VW has tried a hot Beetle before with a 170bhp V5 version, but the cutesy image didn't mesh with its performance claims. If the Beetle R goes ahead, VW will be hoping for better results this time.

Beauty

Mazda came up with a real beauty in the shape of the MX-5 Spyder which, in the same manner as the Porsche Boxster Spyder, features a temporary canvas roof. It would be a fair-weather sort of car, but it saves weight over a proper roof.

And, of course, the tuners were there, turning acceptable everyday cars into tasteless monstrosities. Glossy white wheels, tribal design graphics and unnecessarily large spoilers were the order of the day.

The show was a little light on new European-relevant releases, as expected, but there are glimmers of hope that exciting new models are still coming through.



Ford's Fiesta ST concept may still make it to production and a Sweeney movie remake

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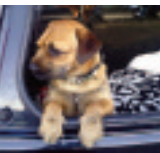
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FORD FOCUS Titanium, 2006, 38k, silver, top spec condition, lots of extras, must be seen! £6,495. 01743 241847.

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FORD MONDEO 1.6, 2008, metallic grey, 5dr hatchback, cruise control, tax and MoT good condition. £4,900. 01384 444647.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA TDCI, 05 plate, fsh, 104,000 miles, MoT May 2012, immaculate inside and out, £2,750 ono. 07412 188578.

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2002, 85,600m, e/fw, a/c, MoT, cl, pas, tax, 1st to go, will buy. £1,795 ono.
07967 472708.

HYUNDAI 120 CLASSIC, 2010(10), 8,500 miles, e/w, 1 owner, tax, CD, Warranty, 100,000 miles. 07730 62611.

JAGUAR STYPE 3.0SE
2001, manual, Jaguar fsh, electrics, tax, MoT, excellent.
£1,750 ono.
07739 288202.

JAGUAR X-TYPE, 2.5 V8, auto, 02 plate, blue, full leather tax, MoT, 86K, FSH, £2,795 ono 07847 456061 Cannock.

JAGUAR X-TYPE, Estate, 2004, Diesel, 122k, fsh, long MoT, tax, alloys, immaculate, £2,850 ono. 07814 308538.

KIA CEED 2 CRDI 1.6 Diesel Estate, 2010, 16,000 miles, emigrating forces sale, £3,000 ono. 01630 653786 or 07966 262597.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER
Serengiti, silver, three door, hard top, 2003, 11 Months MoT, abs, airbag, AC, alarm, CD, locking wheels, auto, petrol, manual, good clean condition inside and out.
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07788 924706.

MAZDA RX8 03 reg, 4 months Tax, 12 months MoT, low mileage, fsh, very good condition, £2,850 ono. 01902 335093 / 07503 219264.

MERCEDES 230 CLK, 2000, silver, tax/MoT, excellent condition, high mileage, £2,200. 07930 374966.

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8 months MoT, 7 months tax, 41,000 miles, black. First to see will buy. £3,200 ono.
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MERCEDES A140, 52 reg, long MoT, lovely condition, £2,000. Telephone 07860 153658.

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MINI COOPER, 53, 41k, silver, chilli pack, panoramic black roof, tax, full MoT, excellent, £4,800 ono. 07971 976011.

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PEUGEOT 206 1.1 ZEST SPECIAL EDITION
54 plate, genuine 33,000 miles, Silver Blue, Full Service History, 10 months MoT, two lady owners, very good condition, £2,700 ono.
Must be seen
Call 07834 765105

PEUGEOT 206 2.0HDi XS104, MoT, 51,000 miles, metallic blue, abs, alloys, 2 owners, please call for condition. £2,900 ono. 07817 255294.

PEUGEOT 206 CC, 1.6, 51 plate, manual, petrol, orange, MoT and tax, 69,000 miles, £2,300. 07908 429204.

RENAULT CLIO, 2006 met black new shape 2 door alloys long MoT history excellent condition. £2,995. 07887 691166.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.6i, 12 reg, 2003, metallic red, 7 months tax, 4 months MoT, alloy wheels, CD player, £2,195 ono.
07904 514430.

RENAULT MEGANE Coupe, 07, gold, diesel, leather, 6 speed gear box, spoiler, MoT / tax Feb 2012, £6,500 ono. 07781 603241.

RENAULT MEGANE Dynamique 1.6, auto, 03, full spec, 50k, excel-cl, pas, tax, 1st to go, will buy, £1,995 ono. 07974 462326.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 54, new shape, Tax, MoT, excellent condition, recent cambelt, service, £2,495. 07865 479115. Dudley.

STREET KA CONVERTIBLE Luxury, 2003, 12mths MoT, leather, 6 speed gear box, £1,995 ono. 07899 969693.

TOYOTA YARIS T-Spirit, 1.0, 53 plate, tax/MoT low mileage, SD, silver, £1,995 ono. 07528 135190.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7CDTi SXi, (08) met light blue service history, A1 condition, long MoT/Fax. £5,750. 07973 994815.

VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB ESTATE, 1.6 PETROL
2007, MoT June, tax February, high miles 158,000 motor miles hence price, metallic light grey, e l e n t condition, £3,000 ono.
Part exchange welcome.
01562 852923 or 07572 068908

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3, 2002, 3 door, petrol, 74,000 miles, dark metallic green, long life MoT, alloys, twin exhaust, CD, vgc, £1,350 ono. 07949 413250.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 03 reg, silver, 3dr, 41,000 miles, SH, EW, CD, tax/MoT £1,895 ono. 07722 998594.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi PLUS, 2006, metallic black, 49,000 miles, Great little car, £2,800. 07974 648653.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI new shape, 3dr, 1.4, black, 47K, 2 owners, SH, MoT, £3,750. 01902 661633 / 07732 542364.

VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, 1.9 CDTi, 150bhp, 36,000 miles, full X-pack, sat nav, AC, cruise control, 8 months MoT, 6 months tax, silver, excellent condition, £4,500.
07515 259884.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 08 reg, 1.9, 15,500k, black, abs, AC, fsh, MoT, tax, CD, excellent £2,550 ono 07428 054558

VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, 1.8, 08, alloys, 29,000 miles, MoT March 2012, fsh, immaculate condition, £2,500 ono. 07776 366405

VW GOLF 1.4S, 07 reg, 5dr metallic black, low mileage, VW FSH recently serviced, cheap insurance band, £5,995. 07970 403208.

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PEUGEOT 206 1.1 ZEST SPECIAL EDITION
54 plate, genuine 33,000 miles, Silver Blue, Full Service History, 10 months MoT, two lady owners, very good condition, £2,700 ono.
Must be seen
Call 07834 765105

PEUGEOT 206 2.0HDi XS104, MoT, 51,000 miles, metallic blue, abs, alloys, 2 owners, please call for condition. £2,900 ono. 07817 255294.

PEUGEOT 206 CC, 1.6, 51 plate, manual, petrol, orange, MoT and tax, 69,000 miles, £2,300. 07908 429204.

RENAULT CLIO, 2006 met black new shape 2 door alloys long MoT history excellent condition. £2,995. 07887 691166.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.6i, 12 reg, 2003, metallic red, 7 months tax, 4 months MoT, alloy wheels, CD player, £2,195 ono.
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RENAULT MEGANE Coupe, 07, gold, diesel, leather, 6 speed gear box, spoiler, MoT / tax Feb 2012, £6,500 ono. 07781 603241.

RENAULT MEGANE Dynamique 1.6, auto, 03, full spec, 50k, excel-cl, pas, tax, 1st to go, will buy, £1,995 ono. 07974 462326.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 54, new shape, Tax, MoT, excellent condition, recent cambelt, service, £2,495. 07865 479115. Dudley.

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Part exchange welcome.
01562 852923 or 07572 068908

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3, 2002, 3 door, petrol, 74,000 miles, dark metallic green, long life MoT, alloys, twin exhaust, CD, vgc, £1,350 ono. 07949 413250.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 03 reg, silver, 3dr, 41,000 miles, SH, EW, CD, tax/MoT £1,895 ono. 07722 998594.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi PLUS, 2006, metallic black, 49,000 miles, Great little car, £2,800. 07974 648653.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI new shape, 3dr, 1.4, black, 47K, 2 owners, SH, MoT, £3,750. 01902 661633 / 07732 542364.

VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, 1.9 CDTi, 150bhp, 36,000 miles, full X-pack, sat nav, AC, cruise control, 8 months MoT, 6 months tax, silver, excellent condition, £4,500.
07515 259884.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 08 reg, 1.9, 15,500k, black, abs, AC, fsh, MoT, tax, CD, excellent £2,550 ono 07428 054558

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RENAULT SCENIC ALICE 16v, 2000, white, 11 months MOT, 6500, 01 7833 683370.

ROBIN RELIANT LX 848cc, 3 wheeler, 0 reg, restoration project, £350, 07840 09482.

ROYAL 25, 02, grey, 4 door, tax, MoT, 50, low miles, e/w, e/s, alloys wheels, £750, 01152 630505 or 07794 632988.

ROVER 25 1.4 IMPRESSION S, Y reg, 2001, 5 door, 51, MoT May 2012, lovely condition, blue, 15k, 01695 000, 07892 88887.

ROVER CITY ROVER 1.4 Select, 5dr, 53 reg, MoT July, low mileage, a/c, electric windows, power steering, excellent condition, £1,095, 01769 48697.

SEAT Ibiza 1.4, 2002, 84k miles, central locking, AC, MoT till April 2012, good runner, 0350 one, 01002 682483, 07950 274309.

TOYOTA PREVIA, N reg, 2.3 petrol, automatic, MoT April 2012, bargain £550 one, 01562 630505 or 07794 632988.

Vauxhall Astra, 1999, 60,021 miles, green, air bag, MoT pas, tax, stereo, petrol, £1,250 one, 07800 695727.

Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi, 52 reg, 7 months MoT, very good condition, ideal first car, £1,400 one, 07970 489433.

Wanted 940 Estate, MoT till Aug 2012, and tax till Feb 2012, red, electric windows, £250 one, good price paid, 0741 0903 67531.

VW GOLF 1.6, 1999, metallic blue, tints, GTi alloys, stainless twin exhaust, lowered, coil over kit, LED lights, lovely looking car, 12 months MoT, 2 months tax, £1,500 one, 01902 634480 or 07596 483105.

VW GOLF 1.6 P reg, 5dr, full MoT, tax, pnc, CL, EW, good condition, very reliable, £450 one, 07904 586185.

VW GOLF TDI 1.9, N reg, 5dr, Tax March, MoT April, Tow bar, 150k, Camblet registered, £900, 01152 630505 or 07794 632988.

VW POLO, 14E, 2000, W reg, 3 door hatchback, black, passenger air bag, space saver spare wheel, heated door mirrors, EW, alloyed, Pioneer CD player with 6 speakers and 16" subwoofers, with added spoiler, FSH, MoT till Aug 2012, Tax Feb, Clifford alarm system, spare key, great car, very reliable, well looked after, comes with 4 original VW wheels, original suspension, lady owner.

For quick sale £1,095, 07814 449088.

Yaris 1.3 Y reg, 6th tax, 6th tax, MoT, £1,200 one, 07525 63674.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN RELAY VAN 2.0HDi, SWB, 51 reg, 65,000 miles, MoT, tax, good condition, £2,950, No Vat, 07941 0903 67531.

Opel Corsa, 2006, 56 plate, 28,000 miles, white, 1.2 petrol, Euro 4 tax band, air con, CL, full MoT, fsh, 2 new tyres, A1 condition, £5,495, o.n.o. (no VAT), 07899 835698 (Ludlow).

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DUCATI 916 VIOSTRA, red, (R), 3 owners, 16,500 miles, Recent service including belts, Tax, MoT, £3,500 one, 07719 923101.

HONDA CBR600F, 2006, 12 months MoT, original condition, £2,200, Telephone 01544 350614 or 07900 306991.

LEXMOTO STREET 125cc, 2011 bike, only 900 miles, blue, tax, until March 2012, 01902 780652, 07800 695727.

SUZUKI BANDIT 600cc, 1997, black, MoT Oct 12, taxed, 12, 27,000 miles, excellent condition, £1,150 one, 07976 849157.

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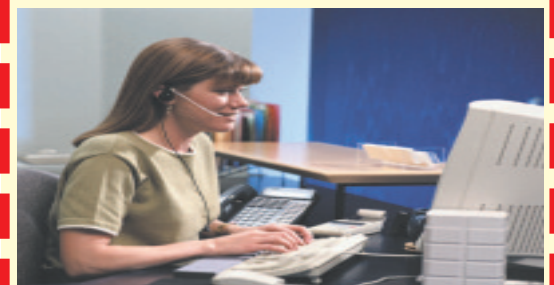


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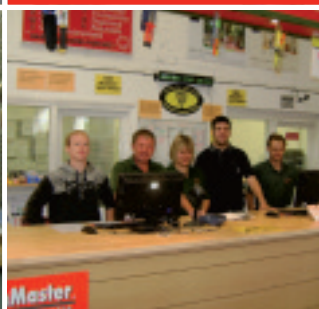


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sport

Craven's double is agony for Town

TWO GOALS from Seb Craven saw victory snatched from hard-working Bewdley.

The home side were the first to create an opening when Chris Seekings picked up the ball in his own half, beat two players then cut inside the Gornal penalty area and curled a low shot which bounced off the post and into the grateful arms of the Gornal goalkeeper.

But Bewdley took the lead when

Bewdley Town 1 Gornal 2

Chris Hough latched onto a clearance from stand-in keeper Grant Morris, powered his way past the Gornal defence and coolly slotted the ball into the bottom of the visitors' net.

Gornal continued to pile on the pressure and in very "Bewdley fashion" were guilty of making chances but not putting them away.

In the second half it was all Gornal as they went searching for the equaliser with Bewdley creating little in the way of chances.

The visitors appeared to have blown their chance when missing an 80th-minute penalty.

But five minutes later the equaliser came from Gornal's substitute Craven who took advantage of a mix-up in the Bewdley defence and prodded the ball home from

eight yards. This seemed to knock the sails from the dogged Bewdley defence and Craven grabbed his second of the game with a stunning overhead kick to seal the three points for an elated Gornal.

Bewdley joint first team manager Brian Lacey felt the home team had done enough to earn at least a point, but praised a strong Gornal side who are his favourites to lift the title.

LATE RAILY FOR PRECIOUS POINT

Ebbsfleet United 3 Kidderminster Harriers 3

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS produced a late comeback to net twice in the final 10 minutes and take a deserved point in a controversial fixture at Ebbsfleet United.

Harriers took a fifth-minute lead through Dave Hankin, his first goal for the club since arriving from Stalybridge Celtic in the summer of 2010.

But it was the home side's equaliser on Tuesday night that raised the temperature of Harriers manager Steve Burr, as referee Rob Whittton awarded a penalty for an alleged handball by Michael Briscoe with the Harriers centre-back being stretchered off the pitch to hospital with concussion.

"It was one of the worst decisions I have seen," said Burr. "The referee has booked their lad for the challenge on Vaughan and we expected a free-kick, not a penalty being given against us."

Burr was full of praise for the way his side performed. "I thought we had the better of the chances and should have killed the game off before half-time. We were well on top, got off to a great start with the early goal and had a couple of chances after that."

"In the second half, for that (the penalty decision) to happen really knocked us but in saying that we should have gone up the other end and scored."

"It's really two points lost, but I'd take a draw when we were trailing 3-1. The lads kept going and I thought they worked like Magpies tonight and I can't ask for any more."

Harriers started brightly with Hankin's 20-yard piledriver setting up early nerves.

Ebbsfleet were almost gifted a 20th-minute equaliser as Briscoe and keeper Tony Breeden got into a muddle but Nathaniel Pinney stabbed the loose ball wide of an open goal.

Hankin and the impressive Jamie Matt went close to adding to Harriers' advantage as the home defence looked vulnerable.

Stricken

The second half was barely three minutes old when Liam Enver-Marum crashed through the back of Vaughan; the ball ran loose and Joe Howe left Briscoe pole-axed with a fierce drive that struck the defender on the temple.

Inexplicably the referee blew for a penalty kick and booked Enver-Marum for the foul before presiding over seven minutes of treatment for the stricken Briscoe.

Callum Willock levelled from the spot and on 70 minutes the same player chipped in from 20 yards before Harriers hopes were dealt a further blow as Pinney drilled the ball through the legs of Luke Jones and Breeden to give the 'Fleet a 3-1 lead with 19 minutes left.

But Matt skinned Ian Simpema before centring for substitute Nick Wright to crash the ball into the roof of the net with 10 minutes left. Fittingly it was Matt who equalised with a looping header.

Kidderminster Harriers 0 Cambridge United 0

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS' assistant boss Gary Whild saluted goalkeeper Tony Breeden for his man-of-the-match display in an exciting goalless draw with high-riding Cambridge on Saturday.

"He had an outstanding game," said Whild after watching the 23-year-old produce an impressive performance which included a first-half penalty save.

Breeden was the centre of attention as early as the 12th minute when he was in danger of being sent off.

He appeared to handle outside the area when the ball bounced awkwardly but, after consulting a linesman, referee Jerry Simpson dished out a yellow card.

"I don't think it was a red card and the referee was excellent," added Whild. "He refereed with common sense with a couple of tackles early on."

"I felt he got the decision right with Breeden because it wasn't deliberate," he added.

Survival

Breeden's survival proved vital for Harriers, particularly in the 24th minute when fourth-placed Cambridge were awarded a penalty following a handball by Lee Vaughan. Ashley Carew stepped up to take the kick which was well saved by Breeden as he dived low to his left.

The Aggborough keeper went on to make further important saves in an absorbing match in which Kidderminster hit the woodwork twice.

Harriers almost went ahead in the closing stages of the first half when Steve Guinan, who bagged a brace

when his side won 2-1 at Cambridge in August, hit the bar.

Callum Gittings fired wide from the rebound and had another couple of chances which he was unable to convert.

After the interval both sides slugged it out in an attempt to get their noses in front.

Breeden pulled off an excellent save to thwart Jordan Patrick and then, on 70 minutes, Vaughan put over a cross which Gittings headed against the United post.

Harriers handed a debut to former Aston Villa and England international Lee Hendrie when he came on as a 60th-minute replacement for Dave Hankin.

The switches enabled Steve Burr's men to step up the momentum, but they failed to produce a goal in a match which neither side deserved to lose.

"The draw stretched the U's unbeaten league run to eight matches."

Whild said: "There was certainly plenty of entertainment and, to be fair, you can see why they are near the top of the table."

Swimmers take plunge for big haul of medals

STUDENTS from a Kidderminster school racked up a big medal haul in national swimming finals.

The pupils at Holy Trinity International returned with no fewer than 14 medals after competing in the national Independent Schools Association swimming championships at Coventry on November 19.

Competing as part of the Midlands Team, the Holy Trinity International squad managed to secure 10 golds, three silvers and a bronze.

Holy Trinity head Mrs Pam Leek-Wright said: "This is a fantastic individual and team achievement which should be highly commended."

"They have all trained hard and continue to show outstanding promise."



Celebrating their swimming success are, front, Imogen Rhodes, aged eight, with, middle from left, Ellie Bainbridge, eight, Adele Reeves, 12 and Ria Chance, eight. Back from left, Faith Ross, 17, Erica Harris, 14 and 13-year-old Sophie Evans.

Still unbeaten, but knocked off the top spot

Boots 0 Stourport 0

DESPITE keeping their unbeaten record intact, Stourport ladies firsts slipped to second place in the Midland Premier League after a win for Beeston took them top.

With only one place in the league separating these two sides it was little wonder that this was such a close affair.

Stourport's best chance of the first half fell to Harriet Burns, whose run down the right was halted only by the Boots keeper.

Sophie Harris, Jade Marshall-Walker and Erin Preece were running the midfield but Boots also had their moments and saw a goal disallowed for ball to foot.

Keeper Sophie Wood was outstanding for the visitors and Sade Gerald went close with two chances.

Edgbaston 1 Stourport 0 The seconds were unfortunate, controlling much of the match but unable to convert their chances.

Edgbaston snatched the winner in the final five minutes from a breakaway, giving Stourport no time to respond.

Stourport 0 Harborne 6 Stourport thirds were unable to stop table-topping Harborne's onward march.

Ludlow 8 Stourport 0 Two quick goals set the tone for this match as leaders Ludlow swamped Stourport fourths.

The visitors came back strongly in the closing stages of the half only to concede a third just before the break.

As they began to tire in the second half, the home goals flowed.

Stourport 2 Droitwich 0 Stourport fifths moved up to third in the table with victory in their final league match before Christmas.

The home side were initially a little disjointed but a 25th-minute goal settled the nerves.

Teri Baron received a short corner and passed to Pauline Knott. Her initial shot was swamped in the melee but she forced the ball over the line.

Knott scored again in the second period to seal the win.

Golf club sides into next round

TWO teams from Kidderminster Golf Club have progressed to the second round of the Droitwich Shield, the county foursomes knockout played off scratch.

The A team defeated Gay Hill A at home by 2-1. Scott Mason and Craig Richardson won 2 and 1; Henry James and Andy Longmore won 4 and 3 and Will Painter and Mark Dudley lost 3 and 2.

The B team also had a 2-1 victory against Gay Hill Bat Gay Hill.

Dave Wiggins and Matt Rock lost 4 and 3; Brian Longmore and Steve Beddoes won 4 and 3 and Callum Hutchinson and Mark Smith won 2 up.

The threeball waltz competition was won by Phil Disspain, David Perkins and Shane Lewis on 81 points.

Second were Alan Penny, John Holt and Mike Caffery three points further back.

Makeshift team well beaten

AMAKESHIFT Kidderminster Carolians side went down 39-7 in a home friendly against Halesowen seconds.

Fly-half Chris Pinner scored the points, converting his own try.

The Carolians seconds beat Willenhall 20-11 at home but club captain John Mounter, having a run out after a long-term injury, broke down again and with no prospect of recovering fitness soon has resigned from the captaincy.

The thirds lost 31-15 away to a combined Highley, Cleve Hill and Bromyard side.

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Samurai stars shine on day two

THE Samurai judo club's big guns fought well in the second day of the recent tournament at the Glades, Kidderminster.

Rob Alloway was the only Samurai in action in the veterans section and took bronze.

Matt Dutton in the men's second level black belts started very brightly with three maximum-point wins but with limited fitness lost a contest against a player from the Buokwai in London, Europe's oldest judo or martial arts club.

However, this still left Matt second in the pool and he had to negotiate two tough contests to reach the final against a Bristol player.

Dutton was the underdog but soon gained a high score and followed up with a submission to clinch gold.

His six wins took him past the total needed for his third level black belt. Tom Walker was making his debut at third level black belt but topped his pool and had a quick win in his semi-final.

Twenty seconds of action in the final

were all it took for Walker to come up with another maximum-point score and gold.

The golds put Samurai second in the medal table, one behind a Berkshire club, but with Sarah Biles still to come.

Biles, in her first competition since the Junior European Championships in Belgium, stormed through the women's second level black belts and above. Three big wins took her to the final where she beat a player from Exmouth. Biles also took the open gold as Samurai topped the table.

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